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“Transmitted via e-mail”

November 3, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-8

SUBJECT: LTP – CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM – GENERAL SIGN-UP 29

Purpose. To clarify NRCS policy for developing General CRP Sign-up 29 conservation plans.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

**Background.** The Farm Service Agency (FSA) issued CRP Notice 488 last week to announce the latest offers accepted into the CRP. District Conservationists should request a list of approved offers for their county. This bulletin provides supplemental guidance on the requirements for developing the conservation plans associated with this sign-up.

- All conservation plans, including all CRP plans, will be recorded using the current version of ToolKit. The completion date for Sign-up 29 CRP plans is July 29, 2005. District Conservationists need to prioritize the completion of CRP plans within their existing and anticipated FY2005 workload. All CRP Sign-up 29 contracts do not officially begin until FY2006.
- CRP conservation plans should include the use of form LTP-1155. CRP plans will be signed by the producer, SWCD representative and District Conservationist. The LTP-1155 form will be completed using the recently distributed CRP ToolKit cost-list. This cost-list is based on the FSA's state-wide CRP cost share docket. FSA will develop detailed CRP contracts, based on the conservation plan and those contracts will show any associated costs, cost share rates and cost share amounts. NRCS General CRP conservation plans will show practices and components and their extent, but will not show any costs.
- CRP conservation plans will include the completion of detailed practice job sheets, which can be found on the MN NRCS home page. Plans will also include mandatory mid-contract management activities and managed haying and grazing provisions, as applicable.
- NRCS will conduct an environmental evaluation of the CRP practice(s) to be enrolled using form NRCS-CPA-52 and that form must be attached to the FSA copy of the conservation plan. FSA will also be signing the NRCS-CPA-52.
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts can develop CRP plans as a TSP and receive reimbursement for their services. To be eligible for this activity the SWCD must request and complete a 2005 Contribution Agreement with the approval of the Area office. The 50% reimbursement rate for CRP plan development has been set at \$88 per plan.

- All employees writing CRP plans including NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation District, and SWCD TSP employees must have the appropriate NRCS designated Technical Approval Authority for the planned practices. Reimbursement of the TSP rate requires that all activities and deliverables described in the attached CRP Plan Statement of Work be successfully completed.

Contact Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist at 651-602-7870 for additional information on this CRP update.

ANN ENGLISH acting for  
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State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AC  
FO  
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